

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

December 3, 2003  
MAG Office, Saguaro Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

# Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek, Chair	Supervisor Max W. Wilson, Maricopa County
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa, Vice Chair	Mayor Edward Lowry, Paradise Valley
Mayor Douglas Coleman, Apache Junction	* Mayor John Keegan, Peoria
Mayor Ron Drake, Avondale	Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix
* Mayor Dusty Hull, Buckeye	* President Joni Ramos, Salt River
* Mayor Edward Morgan, Carefree	Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Vice Mayor Ralph Mozilo, Cave Creek	Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
* Mayor Boyd Dunn, Chandler	Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise
Mayor Robert Robles, El Mirage	Councilmember Dennis Cahill for
Mayor Wally Nichols, Fountain Hills	Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe
Mayor Chris Riggs, Gila Bend	* Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
* Governor Richard Narcia, Gila River Indian	# Mayor Lon McDermott, Wickenburg
Community	Mayor Bryan Hackbarth, Youngtown
Mayor Steven Berman, Gilbert	# Rusty Gant, ADOT
Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale	Joe Lane, ADOT
Mayor James Cavanaugh, Goodyear	F. Rockne Arnett, Citizens Transportation
Mayor Vinicio Alvarez, Guadalupe	Oversight Committee
Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas, Litchfield Park	

\* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.  
# Attended by videoconference or by telephone conference call.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Regional Council was called to order by Regional Council Vice Chair Keno Hawker at 5:08 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Vice Chair Hawker announced that Mayor McDermott and Mr. Gant were attending the meeting via teleconference call. He reminded members to turn on their microphones when speaking so that Mayor McDermott and Mr. Gant could hear discussion.

Vice Chair Hawker announced that Regional Council Chair Wendy Feldman-Kerr was unable to attend the Regional Council meeting due to a commitment with her Town Council, and was joining the meeting via videoconference for the presentation of a Resolution of Appreciation to Mayor Skip Rimsza.

Chair Feldman-Kerr expressed that she was very pleased to have worked with Mayor Rimsza, and thanked him for the encouragement he provided to her to become more involved. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that she admired Mayor Rimsza for his tenacity and the legacy he was leaving. She read the Resolution of Appreciation, which was presented to Mayor Rimsza by Vice Chair Hawker.

Mayor Rimsza stated it was very rewarding to grow up in the Valley and be elected by the citizens to lead the City of Phoenix, and it was an honor to partner with the Regional Council. He stated that the MAG organization has done work that will benefit future generations. Mayor Rimsza stated that there are two key things he felt make a difference—first, the cooperation demonstrated by MAG members. He commented that other regions do not have their people come together at this level to advance a project such as the Regional Transportation Plan. Some criticize MAG while others are amazed at the cooperative effort among MAG communities. Mayor Rimsza stated that MAG should be proud of that. Secondly, doing nothing has consequences. Mayor Rimsza stated that he is proud to have been associated with the Regional Council members, who could have made the choice to not advance the Regional Transportation Plan and other cooperative areas. However, the Regional Council chose the more difficult path to add more voices at the table. Mayor Rimsza stated that we have inherited a great legacy and carried it to another level. He encouraged all to stay the course. Mayor Rimsza said that if something is easy, it is probably not worth spending time, but if it is difficult, that is when we need you the most. He expressed congratulations to the Regional Council for their accomplishments, and thanks for letting him serve as a partner.

Vice Chair Hawker expressed his appreciation to Mayor Rimsza for his service, not only to the City of Phoenix, but also to the MAG region. Chair Feldman-Kerr left the meeting to join her Town Council meeting.

Vice Chair Hawker introduced Councilmember Dennis Cahill, Tempe, as proxy for Mayor Neil Giuliano.

Vice Chair Hawker welcomed Frank Navarette, State Director of Homeland Security.

Vice Chair Hawker stated that the RPTA has agreed to provide transit tickets for those who used transit to come to the meeting. He stated that garage parking validation was available from staff. Vice Chair Hawker noted that a fact sheet for agenda item #7 was at each place. Vice Chair Hawker stated that due to the room's acoustics, audience conversations carry over to the Council table, making it difficult to hear presentations. He requested that the audience keep conversations to a minimum during the meeting.

### 3. Call to the Audience

Vice Chair Hawker noted that according to MAG's public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the cards, which are available on the tables adjacent to the

doorways inside the meeting room. He stated that there is a three minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only.

Vice Chair Hawker recognized public comment from DD Barker, who stated that multimodal feels good. Ms. Barker told that she saw an entrepreneur who was selling concessions on buses. Although eating and drinking are not allowed on buses, selling is not prohibited. Ms. Barker stated that innovative thinking such as this is needed. She stated that in any legitimate government is a place for the boss. The boss is the citizens. Ms. Barker noted citizens at the meeting, Jay Boggs, Rich Malcolm and Blue Crowley. She commented that in a democracy is the right to have different opinions, and different stories need to be told. Ms. Barker stated that safe rapid transit is needed, and the bus system needs to be expanded before putting in fixed systems. Ms. Barker stated that although the Transportation Policy Committee progress timeline seems to show a May 18 election as a slam dunk, both sides need to be communicated to the public, and not pander to a particular marketing. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Vice Chair Hawker recognized public comment from Mr. Crowley, who asked what will happen if the Legislature tinkers with the Regional Transportation Plan? He commented that the Plan does not succeed with the reality and the totality is not there. Mr. Crowley brought up Mayor McDermott's statement that 60 percent of Maricopa County is west of Loop 303. He asked how growth issues, as in agenda item #6, will be addressed? Mr. Crowley stated that he has a problem with going to the trough after Regional Council meetings. What has that got to do with the transportation system getting done? Mr. Crowley stated that he has complained at MAG meetings about Mr. Arnett's behavior. Mr. Crowley said that he felt that eating dinner was compensation, which is prohibited to Mr. Arnett as a CTOC member. He stated that ADOT had responded to his comments and indicated that there was no conflict of interest on Mr. Arnett's behalf. Mr. Crowley read from the letter that said Mr. Arnett is representing the Department at a meeting; if refreshments or meals are served to each participant at no cost, he could accept. Mr. Crowley noted that the meals cost non-Regional Council members \$25. He stated that he did not like Regional Council members eating dinner, because it does not get the job done. Mr. Crowley said that Regional Council members need to push themselves away from the trough. There should be less fat cat and more representation. Mr. Crowley stated that he had more of a problem with staff getting a meal when they make \$80,000 to \$90,000 per year. In his opinion, they can pay for a lunch. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

#### 11. Employee Recognition

This agenda item was taken out of order.

Each year, MAG recognizes the years of service for the employees as certain milestones are reached. With Mayor Rimsza announcing, Vice Chair Hawker presented awards for five years of service to Valerie Day, Executive Assistant; DeDe Gaisthea, Human Services Secretary; Sarath Joshua, ITS and Safety Program Manager; Kelly Taft, Communications Manager; Chris Voigt, Senior Engineer; and Qing Xia, Transportation Engineer II. He presented the ten year service award to Rita Walton, Information Services Manager. Vice Chair Hawker presented 15 year service awards to Steve Tate,

Transportation Planner II, and Don Worley, GIS & Socioeconomic Program Manager. He presented Harry Wolfe, Senior Project Manager, with his award for 20 years of service.

4. Executive Director's Report

Dennis Smith reported on Federal Transportation Legislation. On November 12, the original SAFETEA bill as proposed by the Bush Administration was replaced by a "manager's amendment" agreed to by the bipartisan leadership of the Committee. He noted that authorized highway funding levels increased from \$201 billion to \$255 billion and additional authorizations were provided for roadway safety, and new planning. Mr. Smith stated that on November 19th, the bipartisan leadership of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee introduced the Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (TEA LU), worth approximately \$300 billion. He stated that the funding mechanism is currently undecided and includes 95 percent return to sender. Mr. Smith noted that new programs include a Safety Program at \$7.5 billion and a discretionary program at \$17.6 billion.

Mr. Smith stated that the Arizonans for Better Transportation Inaugural Dinner will be held January 8, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa in Tucson. He noted that the announcement of the event was at each place.

Mr. Smith stated that a joint meeting of the MAG Executive Committee, the PAG Regional Council, the CAAG Regional Council and ADOT representatives took place on November 20, 2003 in Casa Grande. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss legislative authority for the MAG Regional Transportation Plan and the transportation needs of each COG and statewide. Mr. Smith stated that there was unanimous support expressed at the meeting for the MAG Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Smith announced that MAG has received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the sixth year in a row. He explained that the award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

Mr. Smith stated that a legislative open house on the Regional Transportation Plan is being hosted by Maricopa 2020 on January 14, 2004 at 11:30 on the House lawn. The open house will include displays on the Plan.

Mr. Smith updated members on election authorization legislation. He stated that the draft legislation was reviewed at a meeting on December 2nd. Mr. Smith stated that the legislation contained many disparities on bonding, the election date, firewalls, the appointment of TPC members, and no funding for light rail in the first five years. Mr. Smith stated that a meeting to further discuss the issues is scheduled for December 4th. He added that the legislation will be discussed at the December 15th Executive Committee meeting, the December 17th TPC meeting, the January 12th Executive Committee meeting, the January 14th TPC meeting, and the January 16th Regional Council retreat. Mr. Smith commented that much work is needed on the bill, and the way it is drafted MAG cannot support it.

Mayor Rimsza commented that he found Mr. Smith's report on the election authorization legislation disturbing. He questioned if it was a matter of negotiation or a sincere effort to advance the legislation in a more timely manner. Mayor Rimsza commented that if we are to have a May 2004 election, we

need legislation back from the Legislature in January so the Governor can sign it and have it to County Elections by February 3rd. Mayor Rimsza asked if this was a message that they would not be able to get out the legislation in time, hence a November election. He stated that this body heard the Chair, Representative Pierce, say he was willing to support the legislation intact. Mayor Rimsza stated that it would be a very bad sign if staff was instructed to draft the legislation this way.

Mr. Smith stated that staff asked these questions and felt they had not received clear answers. He stated that staff heard the language in the bill came from the Chair, and they had also heard the language used was to get necessary support from critical committees. Mr. Smith advised that legislative staff heard that the bill was not acceptable to business and the cities. Mr. Smith stated that HB 2292 said that MAG would develop the Plan and we understood it would go up or down. Some of the language on major program changes and approvals from other agencies differed from what was agreed to. Mr. Smith noted that MAG is the MPO by federal law. The way it is written, MAG would be beholden to other agencies before it can move forward. Mr. Smith commented that MAG is successful on multi-billion dollar programs because it can move quickly, unlike California. He indicated that replicating a California-type model with numerous approvals would be a mistake.

Mayor Rimsza suggested that the Regional Council sit down with the Governor and her key staff people to work on resolving this. He stated that he would be willing to be involved in this effort. Mayor Rimsza stated that the Governor's active support is needed to make this happen. He commented that MAG worked sincerely and he did not see this as a sincere response. Mayor Rimsza stated that it is time to take this to the Governor so she has a full and complete understanding. He commented that he found it interesting that after the joint MAG/PAG/CAAG/ADOT meeting, MAG had their unanimous support of the Plan, and for someone who worked on the process for two and one-half years to draft this legislation goes to the integrity issue.

Mayor Manross stated that it behooves us to stay united, which is MAG's greatest strength. She indicated her support for Mayor Rimsza's comments.

Mayor Drake asked the agencies to whom we would be beholden. Mr. Smith replied that recommended changes would go to RPTA, CTOC, and the County. They would send back their recommendations to MAG. Mr. Smith advised that if MAG did not substantially agree with making those changes, it would have to send out its modifications for their approval before the TPC can send them to the Regional Council. He indicated this process could take months.

Vice Chair Hawker asked if MAG had its own draft bill. Mr. Smith replied that draft language was emailed a couple of weeks ago to legislative staff. Vice Chair Hawker asked if they had then produced their own document. Mr. Smith replied that was correct.

## 5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Hawker stated that public comment is provided for consent items. Each speaker is provided with a total of three minutes to comment on the consent agenda. After hearing public comments, any member of the committee can request that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually. Vice Chair Hawker stated that agenda items #5A through #5E were on the consent agenda.

Mayor Shafer moved to approve consent agenda items #5A, #5B, #5C, #5D, and #5E. Mayor Thomas seconded.

Before a vote was taken, Vice Chair Hawker recognized public comment from Mr. Crowley, who commented that agenda item #5E is an example of what needs planning. As the City of Peoria has stated, with no water, you will not be growing, and the economic engine of Maricopa County will not work. Mr. Crowley added that we do live in a desert. He commented that the way the legislation was written before, it had to be reviewed by CTOC and the County and he did not see it being done with the amount of looping it should have been. Mr. Crowley commented that maybe the Legislature would listen to MAG if the split was 50/50 as promised in the past. Mr. Crowley stated that the amount to transit is now down to approximately 40 percent. He commented that the road program and rubber tired transit are not being done the way they should be done. Mr. Crowley stated that he appreciates what the City of Glendale is doing on light rail. He asked where in the Work Program is the I-17/Osborn tunnel? Mr. Crowley stated that he understood that there was neighborhood opposition to the structure because it will lead to criminality. He asked someone to show him where crime is happening because it did not happen at Metrocenter after they put in such a structure. Mr. Crowley noted that he wants a tunnel, not a bridge. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

Hearing no further discussion, the vote on the motion passed unanimously.

5A. Approval of October 22, 2003 Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the October 22, 2003 meeting minutes.

5B. Maintenance Resolution

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the Resolution of the Maricopa Association of Governments and the Arizona State Transportation Board regarding State and Regional Funding for Landscaping, Litter Pick Up and Sweeping for the State Highway System. 1) Dedicate part of the extension of the half-cent sales tax for maintenance of the freeways: On September 17, 2003, the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) designated \$279 million of the half-cent sales tax to be dedicated for landscaping, litter control and sweeping maintenance for freeways designated in the Regional Transportation Plan for Maricopa County. This funding commitment is intended to supplement normal regional maintenance funding allocated by ADOT to ensure adequate maintenance of the freeway system. 2) Create a dedicated funding stream: MAG and ADOT can work together to create a long-term funding strategy and process that provides a dedicated funding stream for maintenance. Additionally, firewalls should be created to protect these funds. A formula can be developed to accomplish an equitable distribution of funds. A dedicated funding stream can be accomplished through a variety of means, including: a) Working with the Governor, Legislature and JLBC to explore options such as consideration for designating a portion of the Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) for maintenance statewide and/or consideration for allocating a portion of Vehicle License Tax for maintenance. b) Discretionary funds – Consider supplementing maintenance funding deficiencies by earmarking ADOT discretionary funds. Working together, MAG and ADOT can develop a plan to shift a portion of available funds so that there will be a dedicated set-aside for maintenance. 3) Track maintenance expenditures through the Annual Report for the MAG Regional

Freeway Program and increase communication on the budget process: Arizona Revised Statutes 28-6354 charges MAG with the responsibility of developing an annual report for the MAG Regional Freeway Program. This report reviews the fiscal status of the Program, reports on the progress made over the past year, and identifies major issues or concerns that could impact the Program. MAG is also required to hold public hearings to share the findings and solicit input. Through this resolution, MAG will add to the reporting requirements the status of maintenance expenditures within the region. By tracking these expenditures in the Annual Report, there will be more public input and dialogue in the process. Additionally, better communication and clarification of the maintenance budgeting process are needed in order for all stakeholders (MAG member agencies, State Transportation Board, Legislators and the Governor) to understand the process. There needs to be increased communication as to how capital, aesthetic and safety needs are reflected in the maintenance category. This would allow all stakeholders to participate in discussions when budgetary decisions are being made. 4) Partnering between ADOT and cities to encourage Adopt-a-Highway sponsors: MAG member agencies will work to find and encourage corporate participants for ADOT's Sponsored Adopt-a-Highway Program. Annually, ADOT will provide a map of the regional freeway system that notes which sections are available for sponsorship. 5) Develop a long-term litter prevention program: Research provided by Arizona Clean and Beautiful suggests that prevention programs can change public perception and habits regarding litter. Programs targeted at public education and litter prevention, such as litter fine signing, publications and brochures, videos for public service announcements and municipal cable channels, should be developed from various funding sources. Litter generating fees and taxes should be evaluated as a long-term solution. On October 15, 2003, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended approval of the maintenance resolution. The State Transportation Board approved the resolution.

5C. Proposed 2004 Revisions to MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction

The MAG Standard Specifications and Details Committee has completed its review of proposed 2004 revisions to the MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction and these revisions are currently being reviewed by MAG member agency Public Works Directors and/or Engineers. It is anticipated that the annual update packet will be available for purchase in early January 2004. This item was on the agenda for information and discussion.

5D. Amendment to the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Accept Additional Metropolitan Planning Funds

The Regional Council, by consent, approved an amendment to the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to add \$502,227 in FHWA FY 2004 Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds. Each year, MAG prepares a Unified Planning Work Program that lists anticipated revenues for the coming year. Recently the Arizona Department of Transportation provided the official amount of Federal Highway Administration Planning (PL) funds for the current fiscal year (FY 2004). The Regional Council is requested to amend the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to include the FHWA PL funds for FY 2004.

5E. MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Town of Buckeye Festival Ranch Water Reclamation Facility

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Town of Buckeye Festival Ranch Water Reclamation Facility. The Town of Buckeye is requesting that MAG amend the 208 Water Quality Management Plan to include the Festival Ranch Water Reclamation Facility. The City of Surprise and Maricopa County unincorporated area are within three miles of the project, and both have indicated they do not object to the proposed facility. On August 27, 2003, the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee authorized a public hearing on the draft amendment. The public hearing was conducted on October 16, 2003 and no public comments were provided. The MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee and MAG Management Committee unanimously recommended approval of the Draft 208 Plan Amendment.

6. Approval of Conducting a 2005 Census Survey

Vice Chairman Hawker recognized public comment from Mr. Crowley, who stated that he has not been counted in the Census many times. He added that the City of Phoenix has lost \$100,000 because he was not counted. Mr. Crowley stated that Norris Nordvold from the City of Phoenix has tried to help him be counted. He commented that the census needs to be as extensive as possible and he wanted to ensure that federal money goes to every community. Mr. Crowley stated that the federal government needs to pay for our advancements and new congressional districts. Vice Chairman Hawker thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

George Pettit, Manager of Gilbert and Chair of the Management Committee Subcommittee on 2005 Population Options, addressed the Council on the Special Census. He stated that a mid-decade census survey is important because about \$985 million in state-shared revenues are distributed annually based on population. Mr. Pettit stated that over the past year, the Subcommittee studied alternatives to a special census, which had been determined to be prohibitively expensive at \$31 million. Mr. Pettit stated that the Management Committee recommended conducting a Census Survey as the most cost effective option. He noted that since the Management Committee recommendation, the Census Bureau has reduced the estimated cost of conducting the Survey to \$7.5 million. In addition, FHWA has agreed to allow MAG to use more than 50 percent of MAG federal funds to conduct the Survey.

Mr. Pettit stated that the costs presented are estimates only and will be readjusted as new information arrives. The final costs will be based upon actual 2005 population and housing units sampled. Costs do not include promotion and local efforts to assure the return rate of the surveys is achieved. Mr. Pettit stated that a contract with the Census Bureau must be signed by March 2004 and the Survey would be conducted in September 2005. Mr. Pettit advised that the new population distribution would be used from 2006 to 2010. Mr. Pettit reviewed the payment schedule to the Census Bureau. The first two payments—fifteen percent due in March 2004 and five percent due in July 2004—would be covered by FHWA funds. He added that the payment using local funds would be due to the Census Bureau in July 2005.

Mr. Pettit stated that the requested action was to approve undertaking a region-wide Census Survey at an estimated \$7.5 million cost, with the understanding that \$3,352,000 estimated local share distributed



to member agencies in accordance with the revised methodology and the table that was included in the agenda material. Mr. Pettit extended his appreciation to Mr. Smith, Rita Walton, and Harry Wolfe for their assistance this past year on this issue. Vice Chairman Hawker thanked Mr. Pettit for his report.

Mayor Shafer moved to approve undertaking a region-wide Census Survey at an estimated \$7.5 million cost, with the \$3,352,000 estimated local share distributed to member agencies in accordance with the revised methodology and the table included in the memorandum. Mayor Drake seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Draft Policies for the MAG Community Emergency Notification System

Harry Beck, Chief of the Mesa Fire Department and Chair of the MAG 911 Oversight Team, explained that the Community Emergency Notification System, or CENS, will deliver a recorded telephone message to residents in emergency situations instructing them how to proceed. He noted that CENS uses the same telephone numbers that the 911 system uses, which at the present time are only land line telephone numbers. Chief Beck noted that the MAG 911 Office is working on the ability to send text messages of CENS notifications to cell phones. He stated that MAG received funds for CENS from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality through an environmental lawsuit brought against a private company that designated that the funds would be used for an emergency notification system for the MAG region.

Chief Beck stated that any emergency agency in the MAG region may use CENS. He explained how CENS will deliver the message in English and Spanish and will leave the message on answering machines. In the event that a line is busy or there is no answer, CENS will redial up to three times. Chief Beck stated that CENS works very quickly and will make up to 1,000 calls per minute. He added that this could be a benefit in a crucial situation, such as a child abduction. He stated that a call could go out within minutes with the description of the perpetrator, the victim, and vehicle. Tips received from residents could result in the rescue of the victim before the perpetrator is able to leave the area. He noted that CENS will complement, not replace, Amber Alert, which provides notifications on a larger scale. Chief Beck stated that the CENS notification area could be as small as a few houses, or as large as the entire region. He noted that the MAG CENS system is the largest notification of its kind in the nation.

Chief Beck stated that the target date to have the system fully operational was January 1, 2004. However, the system was activated early in response to a chlorine leak in Glendale on November 18th. He explained that CENS, in coordination with the City of Glendale notification system, made 4,200 calls, of which 2,600 were completed. Chief Beck noted that the calls were incomplete because of no answer, a busy line, or hangups. He added that an increase in the success rate is anticipated as more people learn what CENS is and what to expect when they get a call.

Chief Beck stated that Chair Feldman-Kerr and Vice Chair Hawker would be officially launching the CENS program at a news conference December 4, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mesa Police Department Auditorium. He stated that a live notification will be demonstrated, and opportunities will be provided for the press to be in attendance at some of the homes when the call is activated. Chief Beck stated that

public service announcements and spots on channel 11s will be run to help educate the public about CENS.

Chief Beck stated that policies were needed to guide the CENS program. As a result, a CENS Stakeholder Working Group of MAG member agency representatives was formed to ensure all interested parties had a voice in setting the policies. He noted that after several meetings, the Working Group reached a consensus on policies. He stated that the 911 Oversight Team and the Management Committee recommended approval by the Regional Council of the following two policies: 1) Emergency activation charges will be fully funded through CENS program funds until January 1, 2005. After the first year of activation, as more system data is available, whether the activating agency will pay the activation charges will be evaluated. 2) CENS will be activated for the defined emergency incidents only until further legal input is provided. Emergency incidents are defined as follows: imminent threats to life or property, disaster notification, endangered children and elderly; and evacuation notices. Vice Chairman Hawker thanked Chief Beck for his presentation and asked if there were questions.

Mayor Drake stated that he would recuse himself from the vote because of a conflict of interest.

Mayor Thomas asked about the process to confirm that residents have actually evacuated if so instructed. Chief Beck replied that confirming residents had evacuated would still need to be accomplished with a door to door check. He added that protection that CENS will provide is a more immediate notification than if the door to door notification would have been the mode of the initial notification.

Vice Chair Hawker asked how the calls would be identified so the public knows that they are legitimate emergency calls. Chief Beck explained that “priority alert” will be displayed on Caller ID. He noted that this identifier is protected nationally, and no one, other than emergency agencies, can use the priority alert identifier. In addition, the emergency agency activating the system will identify itself in the introduction of the recorded message.

Mayor Thomas moved to approve the draft policies for the MAG Community Emergency Notification System. Mayor Hackbarth seconded, and the motion carried, with Mayor Drake abstaining.

8. Update on Human Services Technical Committee and Human Services Coordinating Committee

Councilman Dennis Cahill, Tempe, Chair of the Human Services Coordinating Committee, reported on how the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program can benefit the working poor. He explained that EITC is a refundable tax credit for low income working individuals and families. Councilman Cahill stated that EITC provided the opportunity for the working poor to claim more than \$350,000 in Tempe and Guadalupe last year. Councilman Cahill stated that the money they received provided them with the means to pay bills and make purchases without asking for assistance from charities.

He introduced Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council, who reported on the eligibility for the EITC program and how the program has benefitted the communities of Tempe, Guadalupe and Mesa. She stated that more than \$500,000 in total refunds were returned to Mesa residents who filed with the VITA

sites. Moe Gallegos, Deputy Director for the City of Phoenix, addressed the Council on the EITC program in the City of Phoenix. He reported on the City's targeted program in the community of Maryvale. He noted that the program can be marketed to workers through notices in paychecks, outreach to organizations, and through channel 11s, schools, and newsletters. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Councilman Cahill, Ms. Hanley, and Mr. Gallegos for their reports. No questions from the Council were noted.

9. Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy

Marcus Aurelius, Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Phoenix, updated the Regional Council on the Urban Area Security Initiative, an FY 2003 \$11.3 million grant that will be coming to the MAG region. He stated that the purpose of the grant is to enhance security and increase the response capability to any jurisdiction in the MAG area that experiences a disaster that overwhelms the local response capability. Mr. Aurelius stated that incident support teams, composed of specially trained law enforcement and fire command personnel, will be trained to manage response, assessment, and integration of resources. In addition, rapid response teams with technical capabilities will be established. Mr. Aurelius noted that the grant will provide funds for sufficient equipment to mount operations for up to 72 hours. He stated that a steering committee composed of each emergency management, police and fire department, will provide oversight to the Urban Area Security Initiative program. Mr. Aurelius explained that subcommittees will be formed to implement plans. He reviewed the training and exercise activities. While reviewing the Urban Area Security Initiative budget, he noted that precise funding for communities depends on total available funds and the costs system-wide. Mr. Aurelius stated that the goal for FY 2004 funding will be to complete and enhance capabilities.

Vice Chair Hawker thanked Mr. Aurelius for his report. He asked if the federal mobilization would take place after 72 hours. Mr. Aurelius replied that was correct.

Mayor Manross asked the amount anticipated for the FY 2004 grant. Mr. Aurelius replied that the grant is anticipated to be \$12.2 million for FY 2004.

Vice Chair Hawker commented that it was a great benefit to have a uniform response team.

10. Status Update on the June 30, 2003 Single Audit and Management Letter Comments. MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and OMB Circular A-133 Reports (i.e., "Single Audit") for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2003

Becky Kimbrough reported on the 2003 MAG financial audit. She stated that to date, there are no reportable conditions, material weaknesses, management letter comments, or single audit findings, for the third year in a row. She noted that an unqualified Audit Opinion is expected. Ms. Kimbrough stated that she would be reporting back to the Council in January. She noted that for fiscal year 2003, MAG expenditures were approximately \$280,000 under budget. Vice Chair Hawker thanked Ms. Kimbrough for her report. No questions from the Council were noted.

12. Comments from the Council

An opportunity was provided for Regional Council members to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Council is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Mayor Robles introduced the new City Manager for El Mirage, Mr. B. J. Cornwall. Mayor Robles noted that Mr. Cornwall had relocated from Chicago and is now a resident of El Mirage.

Vice Chair Hawker acknowledged that Representative Bill Arnold was present at the meeting, and thanked him for attending. Vice Chair Hawker mentioned that he and Mayor Dunn had a challenge on the high school football game between Mesa Mountain View and Chandler Hamilton. The losing mayor will have to wear the winning mayor's high school jersey to their Council meeting. Vice Chair Hawker stated that the game will take place December 6th at Arizona State University.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary